

REMARKS

Newly submitted claims 16-35 are presented for examination. Claims 1-15 are cancelled.

In the outstanding Official Action claims 1-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite. Claims 4-15 are objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.75(c) due to improper multiple dependency, and have not been examined on the merits. Additionally, claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to neither a method nor an apparatus.

In response to the Official Action, all claims have been canceled and rewritten to avoid the rejections and objection. There are twenty claims in total, including two independent claims. No additional fee is due.

The Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112

The claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as indefinite since they recite both a method and an apparatus, rendering them indefinite. Also, the Examiner cited recitations of alternatives within the claims on which further indefiniteness rejections are based.

The claims have been rewritten. Each and every new claim recites either a method or an apparatus, but not both. Additionally, the word “or” does not appear in the present claims. It is therefore submitted that the claims are definite, and that examination on the merits is warranted.

The Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §101

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101. The rejection states that neither an apparatus nor a method is recited, thus rendering the claims non-statutory. Each and every new claim recites either a method or an apparatus, but not both. It is therefore submitted that the present claims recite statutory subject matter, and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §101 should not be maintained.

The Objection Under 37 C.F.R. §1.75(c)

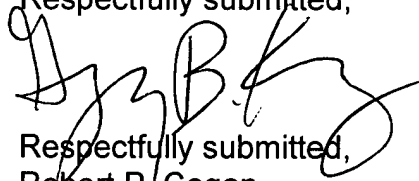
Claims 4-15 stand objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.75(c) on the ground of improper multiple dependency. The new claims do not include any multiple dependent claims. It is therefore submitted that the present claims recite statutory subject matter are not objectionable, and that examination on the merits is warranted.

Summary

Applicant has made editorial amendments to avoid the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112 and 35 U.S.C. §101. Each claim recites only a method or only an apparatus. Additionally, there is no alternative language. It is therefore submitted that the rejections should be withdrawn. Additionally, Applicant has removed recitations of multiple dependency. It is therefore submitted that the objection under 37 C.F.R. §1.75(c) should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is now in condition for allowance. If it is believed that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned to expedite the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,



Respectfully submitted,
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